



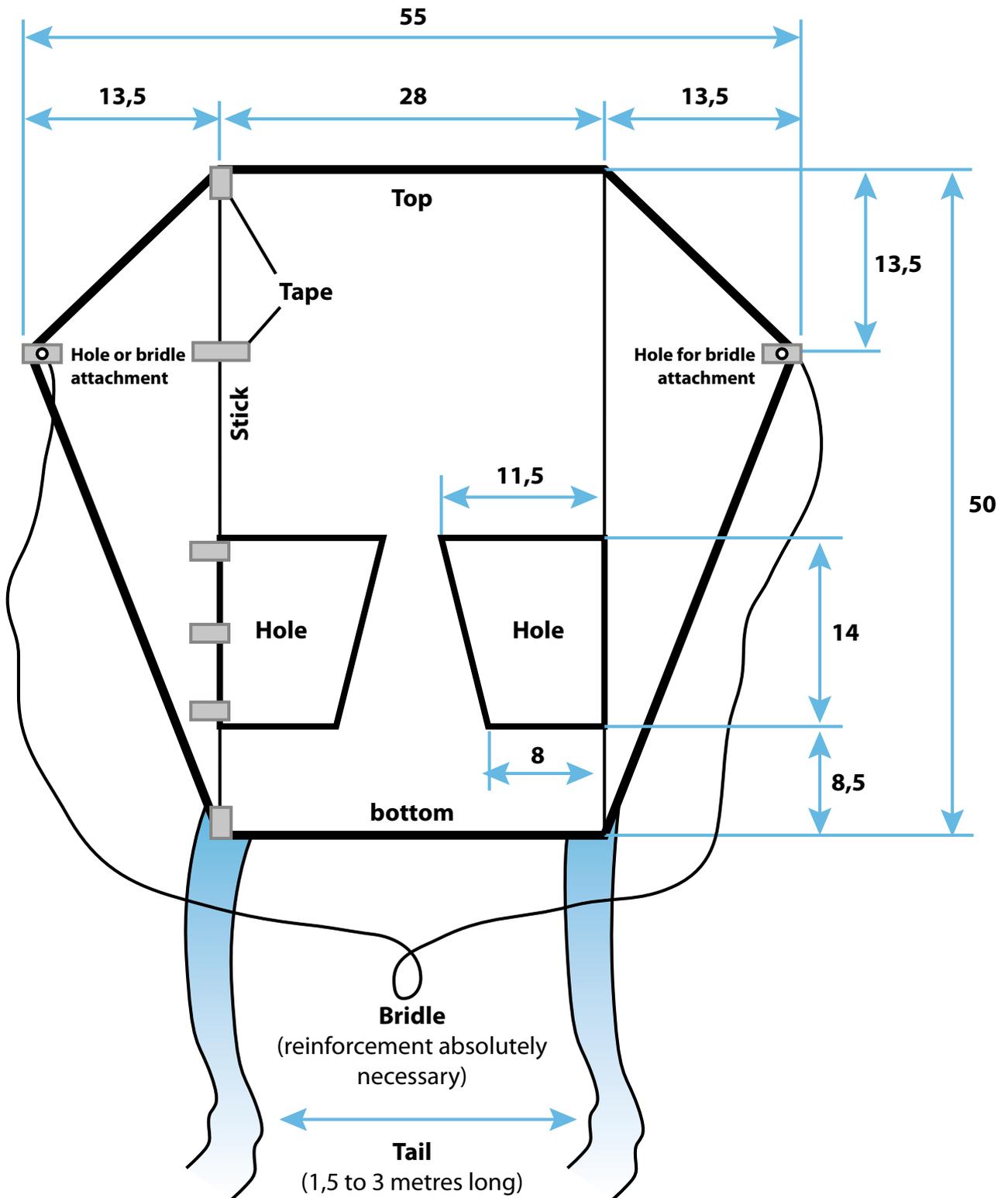
Plan for a Sled Kite





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(All measurements cm)





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The Sled Kite is one of the most easy kites to make. You can build one yourself and it is also very good to make a workshop with children. The kite is a very constant and stable flyer.

1. Materials to Make your Kite



You need these materials for the Sled Kite:

- 1 piece of tyvek 50 x 55 cm (from 1 piece of Tyvek 110 x 150 cm you can cut 6 sails out)
- 2 pieces of wood with a diameter of 4 mm and a length of 50 cm
- 50 – 100 m thin polyester thread
- Some tape
- Hole punch, stapler, scissors
- For the tails you can use crepe paper, waste bags or ripstop nylon
- To decorate the kite: different coloured pencils, felt pens or paints

2. Making a Template and Cutting Out your Kite



First you need to make a template. It is best to make the template out of cardboard, because you can re-use it. Once you have made this template you will not have to make a new template every time you make a new kite.

When you have finished the cardboard template, put it on the Tyvek (or a very strong waste bag) and draw the lines exactly around the template.

3. Decorating and Cutting Out your Kite



Here you can let your imagination run free! You can decorate the front of your kite however you like. On the back you need to attach the sticks, so be careful when you are decorating your kite that your picture is on the correct side, and not upside down!

Then you can cut along the lines.





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4. Attaching the Sticks



Now you have to lie your kite down, so that the decoration is underneath, and tape the wooden sticks on to the back of the sail, as shown on the template. On the corners and over the holes you have to put some tape too, but on both the front and the back of the sail.

5. Bridling your Kite



Before you start bridling, you have to reinforce the corners with tape. After that, either use a hole punch or push a sharp object through the sail to make the holes. Now you need some line to use as the bridle. The length of the bridle is the whole length of the arm of your Mum or Dad or any other adult, or you can measure 3 times the length of your kite and take this length of line as your bridle. To attach the bridle, put one end of the line through one of the holes and tie it tightly. Then knot the other end through the other hole.





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Next, put both corners together and then pull the line straight, so that you can make a knot exactly in the middle of the bridle. Then you have a loop where you can attach the flying line. The loop has to be exactly the middle of the bridle - if it isn't, the kite will not fly very well.

A little tip: We always burn the ends of the line with a cigarette lighter, so that the line will not unravel at the ends. You must ask an adult to help you if you do this...!!!

6. The Tail



To make your kite look better and be more stable in the sky when it is flying, you have to add tails. You can cut the 2 tails out of a plastic bag or crepe paper. The stripes should have a width of 2 – 5 cm and a length of 150 – 300 cm.

It is very important that the tails are exactly the same as each other. Attach the tails to the bottom of the kite with a stapler or strong glue on the back of the sail underneath the sticks.



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7. Flying your Kite!



Now tie the rest of the thread to the kite by tying a knot through the loop in the middle of the bridle line.

So now you are ready to fly your kite.

BUT: Do not fly your kite when you are next to Overhead Power Lines, in a thunder storm or near to trees.

You are not allowed to fly your kite next to a motorway or an airport. In Germany it is forbidden to fly a kite higher the 100 m.

So find a field where you have enough wind to fly the kite. You should feel the wind coming from behind you (at your back) so that the kite can fly. If the wind is very good, you shouldn't need anyone to help you.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Kite Festival - with your own kite! We even have a special field for children to fly their own kites at the Kite Festival!